



20 August 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

First of all, I would like to send a sincere thank you to all of you who have been so supportive over the past two weeks as we put in place procedures to keep our students safe, all the while witnessing how COVID is spreading so rapidly in New South Wales.

I also wish to thank you for the overwhelming messages of support received by teachers and members of the leadership teams. These kind words certainly help us to keep going when we are feeling stretched.

Queenslanders have so far managed to contain the virus and it is with much gratitude that I share the latest Public Health Directives that were announced on Wednesday 18 August and what this means for us at Saint Stephen's College:

- All Senior College are to continue to wear masks, as they have for the past two weeks, whilst on campus. They may remove their masks if they are involved in organised vigorous activity or sitting down to eat or drink. We have decided to continue with mask wearing in both indoor and outdoor venues as it is very rare that students are 1.5m away from each other at any time on campus
- I am delighted to inform you that parents and visitors are welcome back on campus, with the below restrictions in place
- All adults, including staff, parents and visitors, are expected to continue to wear masks on campus. This is because we cannot guarantee that we will be 1.5m away from others when out and about, given the nature of students just 'popping up' for a chat or running past during a game
- Basically, if you cannot socially distance by 1.5m, students from Senior College, as well as all adults, must wear a mask on our campus or when travelling on dedicated school transport
- When teachers are teaching, and are 1.5m away from the closest student, they may remove their masks
- Those who are exempt need to maintain a distance of 1.5m between themselves and the closest person at all times on campus
- APS games will recommence
- Large group musical ensembles will continue with 1.5m spacing

Family Chapel will remain live streamed on Tuesday evening commencing at 6:00pm. As always, we expect students and their families to be part of these services, as they are an important part of who we are as a Christian College.

On Wednesday 25 August at 8.30am the Book Character Parade is being held to celebrate Book Week. Junior College students will parade from the East playground, through the Quad to the GFA. We invite parents to come and celebrate the children's love of books by lining the parade route to see all the costumes.

On Thursday, 26 August, the Prep to Year 3 Athletics Carnival is being held on the lower oval. It begins at 9am. A timetable of the events will be sent in a separate email.



Developing character, inspiring hope

Parents are welcome to attend both of these events and we are looking forward to seeing you on campus again and complying with the above mask and spacing directives.

Please remember that if you or your child is sick or shows any COVID symptoms it is important to stay home and get tested.

If anything changes in the next week, I will inform you as soon as I am aware.

We have had so much positive feedback from parents who have downloaded the new College App, 715 downloads to date! Parents and carers have been impressed with the ease of accessing information and push notifications that alert you to important messages. I am pleased with this positive response, as the driver for this App was to streamline our communications and avoid myriad emails. We urge parents who have not yet done so to take the time to download it onto their mobile devices.

Apple users can download the App from the Apple Store:



Android users can download from the Google Play Store:



At this stage, our Gala is well on track for the 11 September, so if you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please make sure that you do so soon as they are selling very fast! It promises to be a wonderful event, organised by our dedicated P&F. The perfect antidote to COVID blues.

I wish you all a beautiful weekend enjoying this perfect Queensland weather.

*O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry.  
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless.  
When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all.  
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer.  
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency, bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.  
Amen*

Yours sincerely

Kim Cohen  
**Principal**